(c) whether dealings with the blacklisted firms are forbidden following issue of blacklisting order; and

(d) whether dealings with subsidiaries or production companies of blacklisted foreign export firm are allowed by Government, especially when the product to be purchased is the same which leads to blacklisting of the foreign company earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Business dealings with M|s. Lucky Gold Star International Corporation and its subsidiaries M|s. Gold Star Cable Company and M|s. Kukje Electric Wire Company, Korea were banned on 16-6-87 on account of certain irregularities observed in the one of their tender proposals invited by Department of Telecommunications.

(b) On receipt of representations dated 22-2-88 and 6.4.88 from the affected company regretting the mistakes committed by them, it was decided to revoke the ban on other items of the bid except the disputed item.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Faulty telephones in Indore Telephone District

2966. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of complaints regarding faulty telephone, have been increasing in Indore Telephone District of late;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for larger number of complaints and delayed response to them by department; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Redressal of telephone complaints on holidays

2967. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in all the telephone exchanges of the country, the supervisory staff such as Junior Engineers, Assistant Engineers and above do not attend offices on Saturdays, Sundays and other holidays resulting in large number of telephone complaints of the subscribers remain unattended particularly those requiring field visits:

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; particularly when the telephone is an essential service; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure redressal of telephones complaints on Saturdays, Sundays, Gazetted Holidays and after office hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. The offices of DEs, SDOs, AEs, JEs and Supervisory staff who are in charge of exchanges DTO|CTOs etc. work six days a week. Further, there are instructions that required compliment of staff should be posted on holidays|weekly off days to handle the anticipated traffic.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone network in developed countries

2968. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in a number of developed countries the local telephone calls are not charged;